

## **MEETING SUMMARY: REGIONAL PLANNING OFFICIALS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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### **Meeting Time and Location**

The first Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council meeting for the *Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update* was held on April 18, 2001 at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **Meeting Attendees**

The following persons attended the meeting:

#### **Advisory Council Members/Representatives**

- ☐ Don Tolar, DOTD
- ☐ Grayling Hadnott, Acadiana Regional Planning
- ☐ James Forrest, DOTD
- ☐ Robert Roth, DOTD
- ☐ Huey Dugas, CRPC
- ☐ Bruce Easterly, DOTD
- ☐ James Porter, IMCAL
- ☐ Nick Verret, DOTD
- ☐ Jim Harvey, RPC
- ☐ Kent Rogers, NLCOG (Shreveport MPO)
- ☐ Ken Perret, DOTD
- ☐ Robert Hennigan, DOTD
- ☐ Roger Taylor, Coordinating and Development Corporation (representing Max LeComte)
- ☐ Jimmy Williams, K-D Planning Department

#### **Non-Member DOTD Staff**

- ☐ Eric Kalivoda, Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOTD
- ☐ Carol Cranshaw, Manager, Public Transportation, DOTD
- ☐ Jim Joffrion, DOTD Planning
- ☐ Mike Schiro, DOTD Highway Programs

#### **Consultant Team Members**

- ☐ Butch Babineaux, Wilbur Smith Associates (Presenter/Facilitator)
- ☐ Jim Amdal, University of New Orleans
- ☐ Bob Schmidt, HNTB Corporation
- ☐ Mike Heath, Alliance Transportation Group
- ☐ J.D. Allen, Alliance Transportation Group

#### **Others**

- ❑ Randy LaCaze, City of Natchitoches
- ❑ Virgil Page, FHWA
- ❑ Annie Orillac, Monroe Chamber of Commerce
- ❑ Larry LeJeune, Chairman, Governor's Aviation Advisory Commission

### **Meeting Purpose**

The purpose of this meeting was to provide Advisory Council members with an overview of the Plan Update, a review of regional planning related elements discussed at the first Statewide Transportation Conference held in New Orleans on July 31-August 1, 2000, and to discuss strategic issues and suggested changes to the overall goals and objectives included in the 1996 *Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan (SITP)*.

### **Summary of Meeting Comments**

Important items discussed at the meeting are summarized as follows:

- ❑ Dr. Kalivoda advised Advisory Council members that agencies/organizations will be given the opportunity to make a presentation to this Council at upcoming meetings so their "mega" projects can be fully considered in the Plan Update. He distributed a preliminary list of items that these presentations should address. It was requested that a "mega" project be clearly defined and that specific evaluation criteria that will be used to evaluate these large capital projects be included in the list.
- ❑ The ITS related items presented and originally included as an element for this Council should be made a part of the ITS Advisory Council responsibility. Regarding ITS, all interstates/freeways in Louisiana should be identified for variable message signs and other appropriate ITS improvements.
- ❑ Need to address and consider transportation/land use interrelationships. Another study goal should be developed to address this critical issue.
- ❑ DOTD is in the process of developing a bicycle/pedestrian plan, which will be included and made a part of the Statewide Plan Update.
- ❑ Transportation enhancements and context sensitive design should be considered and included in a study goal. An emphasis should be placed on these elements being included in the initial project development phases of an improvement and not after the fact, which makes it more difficult to implement.
- ❑ There are inconsistencies in Regional Planning District and MPO boundaries in metropolitan areas, which impedes effective transportation planning.
- ❑ Goal 6 regarding environmental issues should be re-written to be more proactive and positive. Also, add "quality of life" as well as "context sensitive design" in the revised goal.
- ❑ Delete second sentence from Goal 7.
- ❑ Add another study goal related to ITS.

- Ken Perret, DOTD, will serve as Chairman for Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council. In this capacity, he will represent and attend the Statewide Transportation/Economic Development Policy Commission meetings.